



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE des Jardins Familiaux

association sans but lucratif

1926-2021
95 ans

20 rue de Bragance L-1255 Luxembourg

Regroupement des fédérations européennes des jardins familiaux
Membre d'Europa Nostra
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**International Day of Zero Waste
on 30th March 2023**

Call of the International Federation to its member
federations and all allotment gardeners



International Day of Zero Waste

The International Day of Zero Waste will be celebrated for the first time on 30th March 2023. We would also like to take the opportunity to raise the awareness of allotment gardeners for this purpose.

On the homepage of UNEP, with which the International Federation is accredited, one can read about the motivation to create such a day:

"The International Day of Zero Waste aims to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, support the societal shift towards circularity and raise awareness about how zero-waste initiatives contribute to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The waste sector contributes significantly to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity and nature loss, and pollution. Humanity generates an estimated 2.24 billion tons of municipal solid waste annually, of which only 55 per cent is managed in controlled facilities. Every year, around 931 million tons of food is lost or wasted and up to 14 million tons of plastic waste enters aquatic ecosystems.

Zero-waste initiatives can foster sound waste management and minimize and prevent waste, helping to address the triple planetary crisis, protect the environment, enhance food security and improve human health and well-being." (<https://www.unep.org/events/un-day/international-day-zero-waste-2023>)

But what can we allotment gardeners contribute to this day?

As much as anyone else can, and a little more by being mindful of waste reduction and reuse in our gardens too.

Build a compost heap:

A compost heap can be used to dispose of almost all garden waste and in return the gardener receives the highest quality soil that can be reused in their own beds.

Collect rainwater:

Rainwater is excellent for garden irrigation as it does not contain lime. If you collect the rainwater in barrels, you have to make sure that no animals can fall in and drown. A stretched net also prevents mosquitoes from settling in.

Mulching:

Covering the soil with a thin layer of organic material helps to protect the soil from drying out and also adds nutrients. Grass clippings, chopped wood or even straw can be used for mulching. When mulching with grass, it should already be somewhat dried, as fresh grass tends to rot.

Grow your own vegetables:

To avoid a lot of plastic waste at the beginning of the season, you can grow your own vegetable plants from seeds. This way, the joy of gardening starts earlier and you can save the plastic trays in which pre-pulled vegetables are often sold.

And what else:

Of course, we can also do a lot away from the garden.

- *Repair instead of buying new*
Often, defective appliances can still be repaired and thus remain in use.
- *Plan purchases consciously*
By planning your purchases carefully, you can avoid buying too much and then throwing it away.
- *Reusable instead of disposable*

This motto pays off both for beverages and for the transport of purchases.

- *Drink tap water*

In many countries, tap water is of excellent quality and with an automatic fizzy drink machine you can even make sparkling soda from it. This is cheap and saves a lot of plastic waste.

(Tips from: www.umweltberatung.at/abfallvermeidung)

So there is a lot we all can do and many of us have already integrated into everyday life as a matter of course.

Let's use the International Day of Zero Waste as an opportunity to remind ourselves of this, so that we can leave a world worth living in for our children and grandchildren.